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An Analysis of the Peanut Shelling Industry

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1950-51 through 1952-53

Marketing Research Report No. 134

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CONTENTS

Page

Summary 1

Introduction 2

The Peanut Belt 5
- Receiving and shelling 5
- Marketing year 13
- Kernel yield 14
- Trends in milling 15
- Price differentials 15
- Factors influencing pattern of plant operations 17
- Products milled from farmers' stock peanuts 17
- Shelling capacity estimated 19

Virginia-North Carolina area 21
- Operating seasons 21
- Farmers' stock peanuts received at shelling plants 22
- Rate of shelling, rate of movement from plants, and end-of-month inventories 22

Southeast area 27
- Farmers' stock peanuts received and shelled 32
- End-of-month inventory of farmers' stock peanuts held by peanut shellers 37
- Products milled from farmers' stock peanuts 37

Southwest area 37
- Farmers' stock peanuts received and shelled 40

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LIST OF TABLES

Table | Page

1 - Shelling plants: Average volume of farmers' stock peanuts shelled, and proportion shelled by large plants, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 4

2 - Farmers' stock peanuts received and shelled, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 6

3 - Number and size of plants and average quantity of peanuts shelled, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 7

4 - Farmers' stock peanuts received and shelled, and inventory at plants, as proportion of season's total, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 8

5 - Operations of peanut shelling plants, by months, 1950-51 9

6 - Operations of peanut shelling plants, by months, 1951-52 11

7 - Operations of peanut shelling plants, by months, 1952-53 12

8 - Average number of months plants reported open for business, receiving and shelling farmers' stock peanuts, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 13

9 - Kernel yields from farmers' stock peanuts, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 14

10 - Range of prices per pound for shelled peanuts, by areas and types, February 1955 16

11 - Hypothetical example of outturn and price per pound of peanuts milled from one ton of farmers' stock Virginia-type peanuts 18

12 - Farmers' stock peanuts shelled, and product outturn, 1950-51 through 1952-53 19

13 - Farmers' stock peanuts shelled and estimated shelling capacity, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 20

14 - Number of shelling plants open for business, receiving and shelling farmers' stock peanuts, by length of season, Virginia-North Carolina, 1950-51 through 1952-53 23

LIST OF TABLES (Continued)

Table Page

15 - Farmers' stock peanuts shelled and number of shelling plants, by States, 1950-51 through 1952-53 24

16 - Plants shelling 10,000 tons and over of farmers' stock peanuts, and proportion shelled, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 25

17 - Farmers' stock peanuts received and shelled, and inventory, Virginia-North Carolina, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 ... 26

18 - Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled edible peanuts, Virginia-North Carolina, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 28

19 - Production, supply, movement, and inventory of roasting stock peanuts, Virginia-North Carolina, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 29

20 - Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled oil stock peanuts, Virginia-North Carolina, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 30

21 - Farmers' stock peanuts shelled, by varieties and by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 33

22 - Number of shelling plants open for business, receiving and shelling farmers' stock peanuts, by length of season, Southeast, 1950-51 through 1952-53 34

23 - Farmers' stock peanuts received, shelled, and inventory, Southeast, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 35

24 - Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled edible peanuts, Southeast, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 37

25 - Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled oil stock peanuts, Southeast, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 38

26 - Number of shelling plants open for business, receiving and shelling farmers' stock peanuts, by length of season, Southwest, 1950-51 through 1952-53 40

LIST OF TABLES (Continued)

Table Page

27 - Farmers' stock peanuts received, shelled, and inventory, Southwest, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 41

28 - Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled edible peanuts, Southwest, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 42

29 - Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled oil stock peanuts, Southwest, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53 43

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure

1 - Location of peanut shelling plants, 1951-52 3

2 - Quantity of farmers' stock peanuts received, shelled, and in inventory in the Peanut Belt, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 10

3 - Products of peanuts, by areas and the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53 15

4 - Estimated shelling capacity and capacity utilization, by areas and the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53 21

5 - Production, inventory, and movement of shelled edible peanuts, for the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53 31

6 - Production, inventory, and movement of roasting peanuts, for the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53 31

7 - Production, inventory, and movement of oil stock peanuts, for the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53 32

AN ANALYSIS OF THE PEANUT SHELLING INDUSTRY
1950-51 THROUGH 1952-53

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SUMMARY

This study of the peanut shelling industry was undertaken to analyze practices and methods employed by the industry. The industry is made up of plants designed to process farmers' stock peanuts for sale to dealers, manufacturers, and industrial users. Operations consist of storing, cleaning, and shelling of farmers' stock peanuts, and the grading, bagging, selling, and distributing the peanuts, either as roasting stock or shelled peanuts.

The major part of a peanut crop is sold by producers during September-December and nearly all sales are direct to shellers. Shellers receive about 90 percent of their peanuts during September-December. Processing is spread over a much greater part of the year, although about 50 percent of all shelling is done by the end of December. Shelling plants need storage capacity sufficient to house the other 50 percent of the peanuts processed during the year.

Once the hulls are removed from peanuts, the shelled nuts are more susceptible to insect infestation and other damage, and require better storage than that usually available for farmers' stock peanuts. Therefore, the shelled stock is moved to the manufacturer as soon as possible, usually within 3 to 4 weeks after shelling.

Peanut shelling plant activities varied little from year to year during the 3 years studied, either in number of months of operation or in rate of farmers' stock peanut receipts. Weather during harvest is the principal factor that varies the flow of peanuts to shelling plants. Compared with 1950-51, the number of shelling plants reporting operations for 1951-52 was about 2 percent greater and for 1952-53 was about 10 percent less. A similar comparison for volume of farmers' stock peanuts cleaned and shelled shows 1951-52 with about 33 percent less and 1952-53 with about 29 percent less. This drop in volume corresponded with a drop in production of farmers' stock peanuts which, in turn, resulted primarily from unfavorable growing conditions in the Southeast and Southwest.

The yield of kernels in the shelling operation is an important economic factor, and obtaining a maximum yield of the classes of peanuts for which the prices are greatest may well determine a sheller's profit or loss. The average kernel yield which may be expected in normal years from the different types of peanuts, based on Agricultural Experiment Station results, is about

77 percent for Spanish, 73 percent for Runners, and 71 percent for the Virginia types. This indicates an average milling loss of about 2 percent. For the peanut plants studied the total kernel yield by weight from the 3 crops, 1950-52, was approximately 74 percent, 72 percent, and 70 percent, respectively. Plants which crushed more peanuts for oil than they shelled were not included in this computation.

Average kernel yields for the 3 years in the Virginia-North Carolina area were 69 percent, 70 percent, and 72 percent, respectively. Due to unfavorable seasons in 1952 and 1953, corresponding yields in the Southeast area were 75 percent, 51 percent, and 69 percent. For the Southwest area yields were 75 percent, 71 percent, and 73 percent.

Nearly all peanuts are processed in the area where they are produced. For the 3 crops studied in the Virginia-North Carolina area, more than 99 percent processed were Virginia varieties; in the Southeast area only Spanish and Runner varieties were processed; and in the Southwest more than 99 percent were Spanish varieties.

Although variations in kernel yield are of great importance, under uniform conditions they usually are not large. Practices employed at the shelling plants are no less important. Poor equipment or unwise plant management practices may lead to greatly decreased yield and quality, increased cost, and uneconomical operation.

INTRODUCTION

The objective of the study on which this report is based was to provide economic data that would give the peanut shelling industry, manufacturers of peanut products, producers of farmers' stock peanuts, Commodity Credit Corporation, trade, and other interested groups a better understanding of the characteristics, methods, and operating practices of the industry.

The term "farmers' stock peanuts" refers to unshelled and unsorted peanuts, whether owned by farmers or by others.

The peanut industry and other groups have asked for such data, as discussed here, in order to determine and understand better their operating problems and more effectively formulate steps toward improvement. Also, such data should be useful as background information in the development and operation of price support programs, in making estimates of yield of peanut products, and in determining cost of shelling operations. Furthermore, they should prove economically significant in testing and evaluating new peanut shelling techniques and improved mechanical equipment. In this report, the terms "shell," "shelled," and "shelling" are used to cover all operations customarily performed in milling farmers' stock peanuts.

Each of the above operations affects the efficiency and cost of marketing the farmer's peanut crop, and yet, the operations differ substantially in the three peanut areas. Some part of the variation in marketing operations depends on the type of peanuts produced, part on soil and climate, and part may result purely from custom and individual habit. For example, in the Virginia-North Carolina and the Southwest areas, farmers' stock peanuts are handled and stored principally in bags; but in the Southeast area they are handled and stored principally in bulk. However, there is currently a trend toward bulk handling in both the Virginia-North Carolina and the Southwest areas.

Shelling operations vary by varieties of peanuts. For example, the Virginia varieties are graded before shelling in order to separate them into roasting stock and shelling stock. Roasting stock peanuts are marketed in the shell as "Jumbos" and "Fancies." All of the Spanish variety peanuts are shelled. Such differences in practices normally result in variations in operating cost.

Approximately 150 plants were engaged in peanut shelling and their operations are analyzed in this study. Figure 1 shows the location of these plants in 1951-52. Wherever differences in (1) variety and type of peanuts, (2) timing of growing, harvesting, and marketing, or (3) methods of handling and shelling are of sufficient economic importance, the data are considered by individual area. Elsewhere the data are combined for the 3 areas for overall analysis. The study covers 3 marketing years: 1950-51, 1951-52, and 1952-53, each extending from September 1 of one year to August 31 of the next. A few peanut shellers crush peanuts for oil. For those studied, however, this crushing operation was negligible.

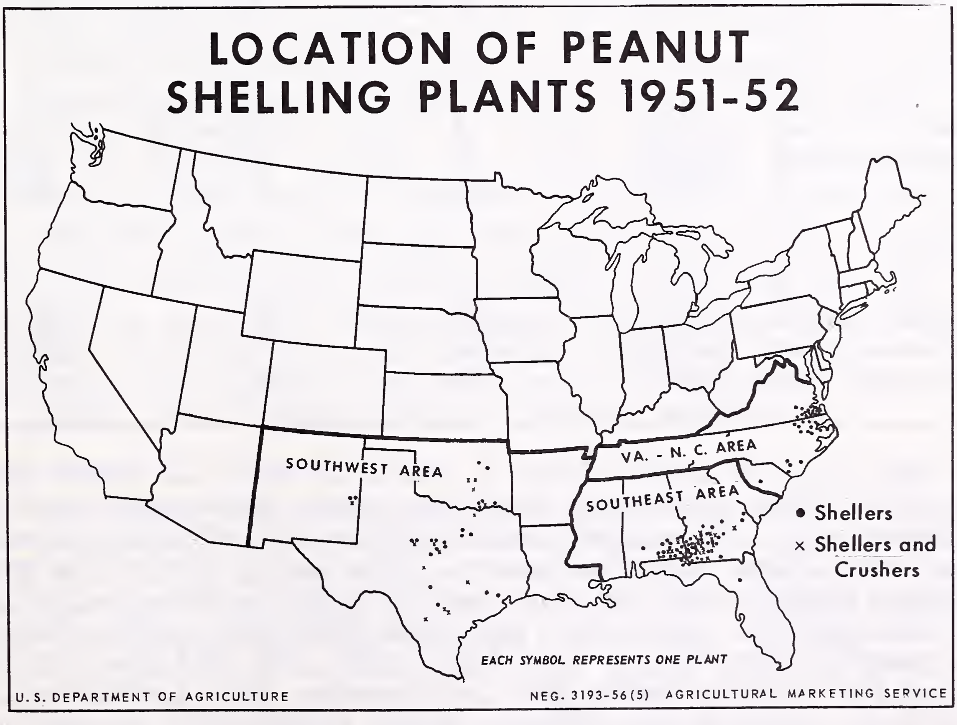
LOCATION OF PEANUT SHELLING PLANTS 1951-52
SOUTHWEST AREA
VA. - N. C. AREA
SOUTHEAST AREA
• Shellers
× Shellers and Crushers
EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS ONE PLANT
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 3193-56(5) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Figure 1.--Location of peanut shelling plants, 1951-52

For the 3 years studied, the average volume of business of shelling plants varied both between areas and between years. For the Virginia-North Carolina area there was a substantial increase in average volume each year, whereas in both the Southeast and Southwest the second and third years had average volumes far lower than the first year, owing to drought.

Table 1.--Shelling plants: Average volume of farmers' stock peanuts shelled, and proportion shelled by large plants, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Area and season	Average volume shelled	Plants shelling 10,000 tons or more		
		Quantity	As proportion of total--	
			Plants	Quantity shelled
	Tons	Number	Percent	Percent
Virginia-North Carolina:				
1950-51	7,870	7	28	67
1951-52	8,371	7	28	70
1952-53	9,632	8	32	75
Southeast:				
1950-51	5,913	11	16	45
1951-52	3,687	5	7	40
1952-53	4,091	4	6	35
Southwest:				
1950-51	5,174	3	9	22
1951-52	2,445	0	0	0
1952-53	2,071	0	0	0
Peanut Belt:				
1950-51	6,098	21	16	45
1951-52	4,240	12	9	27
1952-53	4,724	12	10	48

Although there were few months during a season in which all peanut shelling plants in any of the three areas were operating, there was no month when all plants were closed down. Under usual conditions the most efficient operation can be expected with a long operating season. This is due both to the greater volume of business handled with the fixed capital and to a better marketing position. A long operating season does not necessarily mean that a plant actually shells peanuts every day, or even every month, but that the plant is continually open for business during that long season. Such a position is likely to establish a sheller in a stronger market position in the eyes of brokers and users, as well as of producers, of peanuts. The advantages of having the plant open for business over a long season must, nevertheless, be distinguished from the efficiencies that result from a long season of actual milling operations.

Wide variation among mills in the seasonal fluctuations of operations raises questions as to the increase in efficiency that might be attained by improvement in seasonal schedule. To what extent is there one best schedule? In addition to geographical variations, the inevitable local fluctuations in size of crop must affect the character and efficiency of the season's operations.

THE PEANUT BELT

Receiving and Shelling

Both in volume of peanuts produced and in volume of peanuts shelled the Southeast area ranks first, followed by the Virginia-North Carolina area and then the Southwest (table 2). 1/

During the 1950-51 marketing year 1,058,000 tons of peanuts were produced by farmers in the Peanut Belt, and 977,000 were received at shelling plants. Some always are retained for seed and for home use. Table 3 indicates in a summary way that the plants shelling these peanuts varied greatly in size within each production area and varied in average size between areas. The 4 months, September-December, accounted for approximately 90 percent of the total peanuts received by shelling plants and for 35 percent of the total peanuts shelled. For the January-April period corresponding figures were 7.3 percent received and 42 percent shelled; for the May-August period they were 2.6 percent and 23 percent (table 4). October was the month of heaviest marketing, with shellers' receipts of 366,000 tons, or 35 percent of the total (table 4). The amount of farmers' stock peanuts in shellers' hands, as shown by month-end inventories, continued to increase until the end of November, when it equaled 55 percent of total receipts for the season and 70 percent of the total quantity shelled (tables 4 and 5 and fig. 2). The absolute maximum may have been somewhat higher than this month-end figure. Plants held heaviest inventory stocks in November because of the rapid rate of peanut receipts during the September-December period. The monthly rate of receipts varies, however, both between areas and between seasons.

1/ The Peanut Belt is comprised of 3 production areas: Virginia-North Carolina (Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and that part of South Carolina north and east of the Santee-Congaree Broad rivers), Southeast (Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and the southern part of South Carolina), and Southwest (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico). The 3 basic types of peanuts are (1) the Virginia, mostly grown in the Virginia-North Carolina area; (2) the Runner, mostly grown in the Southeast area; and (3) the Spanish, grown in the Southwest and Southeast areas.

Table 2.--Farmers' stock peanuts received and shelled, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 1/

Season and item	Unit	Area: Virginia-North Carolina 2/	Area: Southeast	Area: Southwest	Area: Peanut Belt
1950-51:					
Peanuts received...	Tons	216,654	547,403	213,212	977,269
Proportion of total..........	Percent	22.17	56.01	21.82	100.00
Peanuts shelled....	Tons	198,609	437,829	190,208	826,646
Proportion of total..........	Percent	24.03	52.96	23.01	100.00
1951-52:					
Peanuts received...	Tons	218,985	464,720	103,645	787,350
Proportion of total..........	Percent	27.81	59.02	13.17	100.00
Peanuts shelled....	Tons	212,034	256,515	88,880	557,429
Proportion of total..........	Percent	38.04	46.02	15.94	100.00
1952-53:					
Peanuts received...	Tons	258,543	317,701	65,534 ~~655,534~~	641,778
Proportion of total..........	Percent	40.29	49.50	10.21	100.00
Peanuts shelled....	Tons	243,959	279,916	61,157	585,032
Proportion of total..........	Percent	41.70	47.85	10.45	100.00

1/ Figures shown in this table do not agree with figures shown in table 3 because in table 3 certain items were excluded or adjusted to permit computation of average shelling rates per plant.

2/ Includes Jumbos and Fancies.

Table 3.--Number and size of plants and average quantity of peanuts shelled, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 1/

Season and item	Unit	Area								
		Virginia-North Carolina			Southeast			Southwest		
		Under 10,000 tons	Over 10,000 tons	Total or average	Under 10,000 tons	Over 10,000 tons	Total or average	Under 10,000 tons	Over 10,000 tons	Total or average
1950-51:										
Mills	Number	18	7	25	59	11	70	31	3	34
Proportion of area total	Percent	72	28	100	84	16	100	91	9	100
Total peanuts shelled	Tons	65,019	131,721	196,740	227,727	186,162	413,889	138,084	37,846	175,930
Average shelled per plant	Tons	3,612	18,817	7,870	3,860	16,924	5,913	4,454	12,615	5,174
Proportion of area total	Percent	33	67	100	55	45	100	78	22	100
1951-52:										
Mills	Number	18	7	25	65	5	70	36	0	36
Proportion of area total	Percent	72	28	100	93	7	100	100	0	100
Total peanuts shelled	Tons	63,728	145,558	209,286	153,668	104,410	258,078	88,022	0	88,022
Average shelled per plant	Tons	3,540	20,794	8,371	2,364	20,882	3,687	2,445	0	2,445
Proportion of area total	Percent	30	70	100	60	40	100	100	0	100
1952-53:										
Mills	Number	17	8	25	63	4	67	30	0	30
Proportion of area total	Percent	68	32	100	94	6	100	100	0	100
Total peanuts shelled	Tons	60,512	180,279	240,791	177,454	96,646	274,100	61,423	0	61,423
Average shelled per plant	Tons	3,560	22,535	9,632	2,817	24,162	4,091	2,047	0	2,047
Proportion of area total	Percent	25	75	100	65	35	100	100	0	100

1/ Size of plant determined by volume. Figures shown in this table for peanuts shelled do not agree with figures in table 2 because certain items were excluded or adjusted to permit computation of average shelling volumes per plant.

Table 4.--Farmers' stock peanuts received and shelled, and inventory at plants, as proportion of season's total, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Month	1950-51			1951-52		
	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
September	9.53	4.18	6.59	3.58	4.53	4.09
October	37.47	7.91	36.59	23.46	7.41	21.09
November	33.91	11.27	59.38	28.58	12.34	38.90
December	8.43	11.77	55.53	17.32	10.82	46.66
Total	89.34	35.13		72.94	35.10	
January	2.40	12.16	47.08	7.35	12.07	42.20
February	2.28	9.70	40.25	3.63	11.77	35.16
March	1.97	10.51	31.53	3.68	10.70	27.90
April	1.21	9.41	22.40	3.89	9.38	20.18
Total	7.86	41.78		18.55	43.92	
May	1.11	8.38	14.94	3.15	8.44	13.12
June	.58	6.19	9.73	1.26	5.05	9.46
July	.36	4.26	6.28	2.36	4.25	7.14
August	.75	4.26	3.26	1.74	3.24	5.58
Total	2.80	23.09		8.51	20.98	
Year	100.00	100.00		100.00	100.00	

Month	1952-53			Average 1950-51 through 1952-53		
September	4.27	5.28	5.89	6.18	4.60	5.58
October	37.46	9.80	33.61	32.88	8.33	30.72
November	26.69	13.03	47.56	30.24	12.10	49.52
December	17.23	11.17	53.43	13.69	11.32	52.07
Total	85.65	39.28		82.99	36.35	
January	4.08	11.54	46.07	4.47	11.95	45.22
February	2.76	10.76	38.47	2.85	10.60	38.11
March	1.45	9.44	30.11	2.39	10.25	29.96
April	1.66	8.48	20.75	2.21	9.12	21.23
Total	9.95	40.22		11.92	41.92	
May	1.00	7.04	14.69	1.74	8.00	14.28
June	.93	5.68	10.22	.90	5.72	9.77
July	.79	3.78	7.29	1.13	4.11	6.83
August	1.68	4.00	4.81	1.32	3.90	4.43
Total	4.40	20.50		5.09	21.73	
Year	100.00	100.00		100.00	100.00	

Table 5.--Operations of peanut shelling plants, by months, 1950-51 1/

Month	Received	Cleaned and shelled	Crushed	Shipped	Shrinkage and loss	Disappearance	End-of-month inventory (farmers' stock basis) 2/				
							Farmers' stock	Cleaned	Shelled	Oil stock	Total
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Aug							8,976				
Sept	93,118	34,540	460	2,697	31	37,728	64,366	4,324	28,975	7,022	104,687
Oct	366,143	65,410	1,687	5,644	208	72,949	357,560	2,291	40,189	8,783	408,823
Nov	331,423	93,137	6,434	8,955	175	108,701	580,282	4,485	56,577	11,234	652,578
Dec	82,408	97,271	2,991	19,008	759	120,029	542,661	7,469	70,312	25,132	645,574
Jan	23,450	100,526	941	4,298	202	105,967	460,144	10,876	76,572	30,092	577,684
Feb	22,279	80,210	3,529	5,158	148	89,045	393,378	12,310	82,518	28,702	516,908
Mar	19,241	86,868	5,378	12,123	148	104,517	308,102	12,888	89,050	30,897	440,937
Apr	11,878	77,808	1,870	21,036	360	101,074	218,906	13,637	89,607	37,958	360,108
May	10,814	69,275	1,511	12,472	479	83,737	145,983	14,148	97,629	30,246	288,006
June	5,713	51,175	1,361	3,339	743	56,618	95,078	12,979	97,425	24,299	229,781
July	3,470	35,184	131	1,662	227	37,204	61,344	11,998	91,831	16,673	181,846
Aug	7,332	35,242	0	755	846	36,843	31,833	10,688	79,252	11,366	133,139

1/ Includes peanut shellers only. Excludes millers, warehouse stocks, and CCC stocks.
2/ Cleaned, shelled, and oil stock peanuts shown here are converted to farmers' stock.

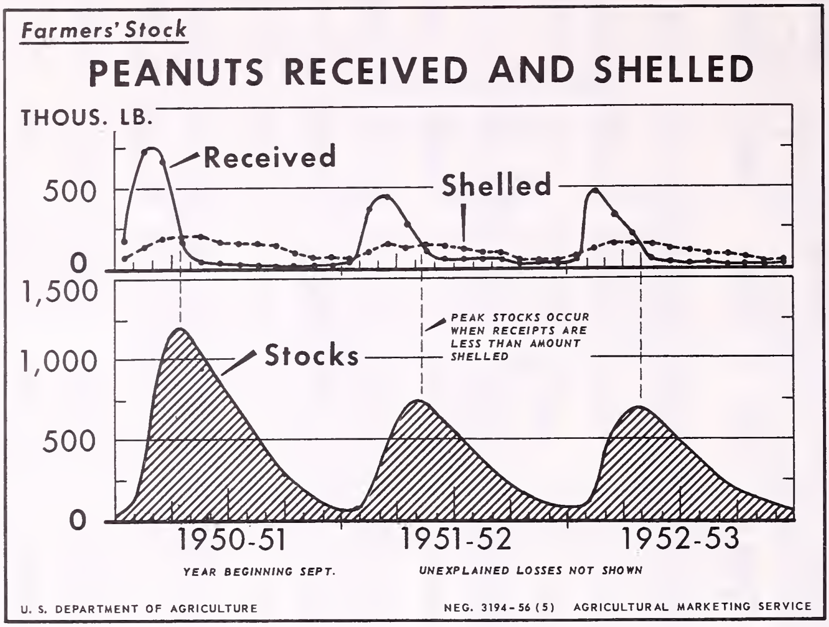

Figure 2.--Quantity of farmers' stock peanuts received, shelled, and in inventory in the Peanut Belt, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Receipts were heaviest during October each year for the industry as a whole and for 60 percent or more of the individual plants. The Virginia-North Carolina area differed from the Belt as a whole, however, in having heaviest receipts during November. Such a difference can be accounted for by area variations in the growing and harvesting seasons. In the Southeast and Southwest areas the seasons for planting and harvesting peanuts are from 4 to 6 weeks earlier than in the Virginia-North Carolina area, with consequent earlier movements to the shelling plants.

As with receipts, the movements 2/ of peanuts from shelling plants, farmers' stock basis, for the 1950-51 marketing year were heaviest in October, when they were almost twice as great as the month's quantity shelled. During November and December the quantity moved was about the same as the quantity shelled; during January and February movements dropped below the quantity shelled; and for the remaining months of the season outward movements again were greater than the quantity shelled. The operating pattern for the 1951-52 and 1952-53 seasons was similar to that in 1950-51 (tables 6 and 7).

2/ Movements represent total quantity of peanuts leaving the plants. Movements are estimated by adding the quantity of peanuts processed during a month to the quantity on hand at the end of the previous month, and subtracting stock at the end of the current month.

Table 6.--Operations of peanut shelling plants, by months, 1951-52 1/

Month	Received	Cleaned and shelled	Crushed	Shipped	Shrinkage and loss	Disappearance	End-of-month inventory (farmers' stock basis) 2/				
							Farmers' stock	Cleaned	Shelled	Oil stock	Total
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Aug							31,833				
Sept	28,152	25,243	240	1,625	702	27,810	32,175	7,276	60,676	7,080	107,207
Oct	184,747	41,295	5,430	3,985	179	50,889	166,033	4,499	45,798	5,491	221,821
Nov	225,004	68,810	9,726	6,072	181	84,789	306,248	3,810	45,612	7,567	363,237
Dec	136,388	60,288	6,621	8,164	156	75,229	367,407	5,147	61,897	6,487	440,938
Jan	57,900	67,282	12,804	12,702	240	93,028	332,279	7,385	61,743	9,426	410,833
Feb	28,534	65,607	9,778	8,520	74	83,979	276,834	9,425	79,800	11,238	377,297
Mar	29,002	59,682	12,179	14,150	131	86,142	219,694	11,568	89,496	11,412	332,170
Apr	30,631	52,265	11,927	26,568	665	91,425	158,900	13,320	85,617	10,307	268,144
May	24,782	47,026	13,224	19,594	544	80,388	103,291	12,142	87,662	11,734	214,829
June	9,949	28,151	6,077	4,366	139	38,733	74,507	10,787	90,937	6,141	182,372
July	18,561	23,717	5,765	7,280	80	36,842	56,226	8,083	80,010	4,137	148,456
Aug	13,700	18,063	4,501	3,432	5	26,001	43,925	6,594	66,608	1,671	118,798

1/ Includes peanut shellers only. Excludes millers, warehouse stocks, and CCC stocks.

2/ Cleaned, shelled, and oil stock peanuts shown here are converted to farmers' stock.

Table 7.--Operations of peanut shelling plants, by months, 1952-53 1/

Month	Received	Cleaned and shelled	Crushed	Shipped	Shrinkage and loss	Disappearance	End-of-month inventory (farmers' stock basis) 2/				
							Farmers' stock	Cleaned	Shelled	Oil stock	Total
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Aug							43,924				
Sept	27,381	30,878	-	1,993	634	33,505	37,800	4,850	47,645	5,333	95,628
Oct	240,393	57,338	-	5,066	87	62,491	215,702	2,231	38,652	7,223	263,808
Nov	171,293	76,249	-	5,477	39	81,765	305,230	3,319	58,069	5,888	372,506
Dec	110,596	65,353	-	7,542	57	72,952	342,874	5,026	79,730	6,109	433,739
Jan	26,199	67,502	-	5,887	21	73,410	295,663	6,979	92,252	5,454	400,348
Feb	17,697	62,948	-	3,396	99	66,443	246,917	9,353	106,696	5,423	368,389
Mar	9,333	55,211	-	7,576	214	63,001	193,249	10,870	109,243	5,571	318,933
Apr	10,677	49,601	-	20,998	160	70,759	133,167	10,377	105,469	8,141	257,154
May	6,422	41,187	-	4,035	87	45,309	94,280	9,273	105,433	8,173	217,159
June	5,943	33,227	-	1,199	224	34,650	65,573	7,553	101,420	4,576	179,122
July	5,082	22,128	-	1,071	669	23,868	46,787	6,829	87,744	3,865	145,225
Aug	10,762	23,410	-	3,233	33	26,676	30,873	6,914	66,796	4,484	109,067

1/ Includes peanut shellers only. Excludes millers, warehouse stocks, and CCC stocks.

2/ Crushed included with cleaned and shelled in 1952-53. Cleaned, shelled, and oil stock peanuts shown here are converted to farmers' stock.

Marketing Year

Although operations somewhere in the industry were reported for each of the 12 months during each year studied, the average plant shelled some farmers' stock peanuts each month for about 9 months in 1950-51, 7 in 1951-52, and 8 in 1952-53, received farmers' stock peanuts for 6 months in 1950-51, 7 in 1951-52, and 6 in 1952-53, and reported some type of activity for approximately 10 months of each year (table 8). 3/

Table 8.--Average number of months plants reported open for business, receiving and shelling farmers' stock peanuts, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 1/

Area and season	Open for business	Receiving	Shelling
	Number	Number	Number
Virginia-North Carolina:			
1950-51	10.73	8.59	7.89
1951-52	9.84	8.00	7.39
1952-53	10.96	8.23	7.60
Southeast:			
1950-51	10.35	5.77	8.78
1951-52	9.96	6.60	7.18
1952-53	9.64	5.48	7.68
Southwest:			
1950-51	10.18	5.38	8.82
1951-52	9.28	5.86	6.92
1952-53	9.83	5.60	6.50
Peanut Belt:			
1950-51	10.38	6.29	8.60
1951-52	9.75	6.67	7.15
1952-53	9.95	6.10	7.61

1/ In this report, "open for business" means that the plants are engaged in any type of activity with farmers' stock or shelled peanuts.

3/ The receiving season is any period of time during which plants actually receive farmers' stock peanuts. The shelling season is any period during which plants actually engage in shelling farmers' stock peanuts.

Kernel Yield

The milling yield of peanuts is an important factor in evaluating operating cost and returns for a shelling operation. 4/ Factors which greatly influence yield are the grade of peanuts being milled (cleaned or shelled), variety of peanuts, the technical know-how of the plant operator, and the effiency of shelling equipment. Yields which might usually be expected from the different varieties of peanuts are: (1) Spanish about 77 percent kernels with 23 percent hulls and milling loss, (2) Runners about 73 percent kernels with 27 percent hulls and milling loss, and (3) Virginia types about 71 percent kernels and 29 percent hulls and milling loss. 5/ Ratio of kernels to hulls is the determining factor, with little, if any, difference in milling loss attributable to variety (table 9 and fig. 3).

Table 9.--Kernel yields from farmers' stock peanuts, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Season and item	Virginia-North Carolina	Southeast	Southwest	Peanut Belt
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950-51:				
Farmers' stock	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Kernels	69.3	74.9	74.6	73.5
Hulls and milling loss	30.7	25.1	25.4	26.5
1951-52:				
Farmers' stock	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Kernels	70.2	74.7	70.7	72.3
Hulls and milling loss	29.8	25.3	29.3	27.7
1952-53:				
Farmers' stock	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Kernels	71.5	68.8	72.9	70.2
Hulls and milling loss	28.5	31.2	27.1	29.7

4/ The term "milled" or "milling" is used primarily in the Virginia-North Carolina area, being used to cover all operations customarily performed by shelling plants to produce in-the-shell Jumbo and Fancy grades of peanuts and the shelled Extra-large, Medium, No. 1, No. 2, and Oil stock grades.

5/ United States Department of Agriculture. Growing Peanuts. Farmers' Bulletin No. 2063, May 1954.

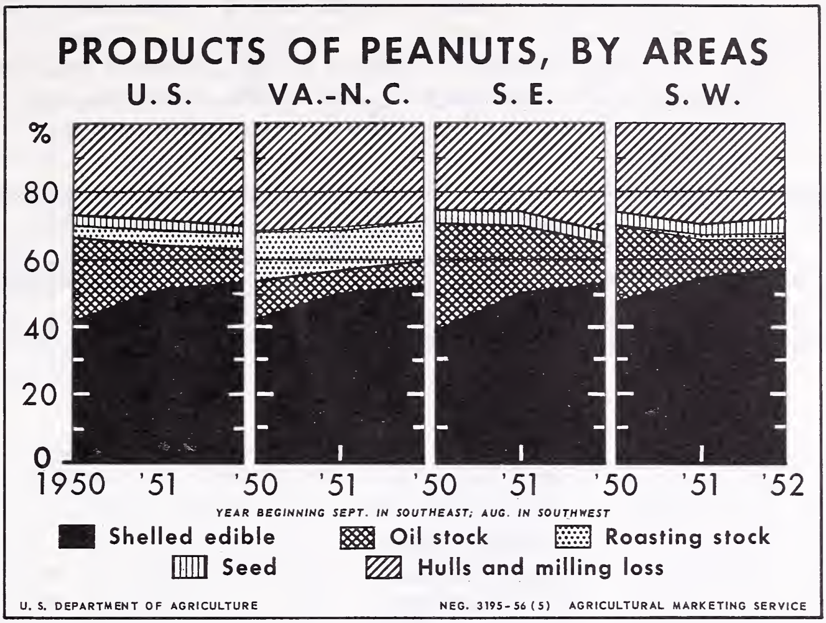

Figure 3.--Products of peanuts, by areas and the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Trends in Milling

Compared with that of the 1950-51 marketing year, volume of peanuts shelled in 1951-52 in the Peanut Belt was about 33 percent less and in 1952-53 was 29 percent less. In the Southeast, the volume shelled decreased in about the same proportions as that in the Peanut Belt as a whole, but in the Southwest area the drop was more pronounced. In the Virginia-North Carolina area, volume shelled was greater in 1951-52 and 1952-53 than in 1950-51.

The decrease in quantity shelled in the Southeast and Southwest can probably be attributed to drought during the growing seasons which resulted in a drop in both yields per acre and number of acres harvested.

Price Differentials

Price differentials have existed between areas, between types of peanuts, and between grades. The fact that to a considerable extent each type of peanut is grown in one area veils the geographic differentials. The Spanish typs is grown extensively, however, in both the Southeast and the Southwest. The Southeast Spanish farmers' stock peanuts usually obtain a price differential over those from the Southwest, and this undoubtedly is a "place" differential as well as one of quality. It is generally agreed that Southwest Spanish peanuts usually split more easily than the same type grown in the Southeast.

Table 9 indicates no consistent difference in yield of kernels between the two areas, although this gives only a rough comparison because the yield data for the Southeast include runner-type peanuts. Furthermore, comparable prices of shelled nuts by area and type (table 10) show no preference for Southeastern Spanish. If the Southeastern ones split less, such a preference could be expected.

Table 10.--Range of prices per pound for shelled peanuts, by areas and types, February 1955 1/

Type	Virginia-North Carolina	Southeast	Southwest
	Cents	Cents	Cents
Virginia:			
Jumbos 2/	20.75-22.75		
Fancies 2/	19.75-21.75		
Extra large	26.50-28.00		
Medium	25.75-27.00		
No. 1	25.50-26.00		
No. 2	23.00-23.50		
Spanish:			
No. 1		24.75-26.50	25.00-26-50
No. 2		20.00-21.50	22.50-24.00
Runners:			
No. 1		24.00-25.00	
No. 2		20.50-22.00	

1/ From Weekly Peanut Report, Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23, 1955.
2/ In the shell.

Practically all of the roasting-stock market and a preponderant part of the salted-nut market are supplied by Virginia type peanuts. One season with another, however, their yield of kernels per ton of farmers' stock is lower than the other two types.

Their relatively high price usually prevents the use of roasting stock Virginias in peanut butter. The type apparently most preferred by peanut butter manufacturers is the Spanish. However, No. 2 Virginias and Runners are used because of their availability and favorable price. In recent years more Runners have been used in peanut butter than any other type.

Importance of peanut price differential to the grower can be seen only when prices are combined with yield per acre.

Factors Influencing Pattern of Plant Operations

Peanut shelling plants follow a similar seasonal pattern of operation from year to year. Because the peanut varieties produced in the different areas do not ordinarily change, a shelling plant usually processes the same variety of peanuts from year to year. An exception to this is the increase in production of Runners and decrease in Spanish varieties in the Southeastern area in recent years. However, this particular shift in types did not materially affect shelling plant operations. Weather conditions during the harvest season cause some variation in the rate of farmers' stock flow to the shelling plants from year to year. Also weather factors during both growing and harvesting seasons affect the quality of peanuts; the variation in quality in turn affects shelling cost, yields, and returns.

Volume of peanuts which a sheller is able to attract and to dispose of depends in some degree on preharvest verbal agreements with farmers and warehousemen, and on market connections with dealers and industrial users of shelled peanuts. The quantity of peanuts that farmers can cover by their agreements in turn is influenced by acreage allotments, weather, quality of land, intensity of cultivation, and the quality and variety of seed planted. Volume that the sheller can handle, mill, and carry in his ownership depends largely on the extent of his plant and his working capital.

It has long been the custom to move farmers' stock peanuts directly from the picking machine to the shelling plant, resulting in heavy autumn movements. In the Virginia-North Carolina area, farmers' stock peanuts are most often cured in stacks, which may take from 4 to 6 weeks varying with weather; they are then moved from the stacks to the picking machine. In the Southeast area both the stack and windrow methods of curing are used, with the stack method predominating, whereas in the Southwest windrowing is used almost entirely. When windrows are used a grower may cure, pick, and move his crop to the shelling plant within 2 or 3 weeks, approximately half the time required by the stack method.

Products Milled from Farmers' Stock Peanuts

In this report the different grades of peanuts produced in the milling operation are grouped into (1) shelled edible, (2) roasting stock, and (3) shelled oil stock. Which grades and market classes of peanuts will be produced at the shelling plant is partially predetermined before the peanuts reach the plant. The variety of seed planted, fertilization and cultivation practices, and treatment for insects and disease are factors which primarily determine the class and grade of farmers' stock peanuts. Weather factors obviously are not within the grower's control, but his judgment as to how and when to perform different operations does influence the grade of peanuts produced and marketed. Once the sheller has the peanuts, his shelling equipment and technical know-how influence the quantity and quality of finished product. Shelled peanuts are sized by being run over metal sheets with perforations of the sizes required for different U. S. standard grades. In addition, the peanuts for any specific grade must not run more than a given number to the pound. Loss in returns may sometimes be the price of ineffective techniques in the shelling operation; limited observation indicates that greater precision usually yields greater returns from finished products. Table 11 shows a hypothetical example of outturn of peanuts from milling a ton of farmers' stock Virginia type peanuts; table 12 gives outturn for the Peanut Belt. The example is hypothetical in the sense that some of the data used have been estimated or adjusted so that they do not represent any specific case.

Table 11.--An example of outturn and price per pound of peanuts milled from 1 ton of farmers' stock Virginia-type peanuts 1/

Product	Outturn		Price
	Proportion	Quantity	
	Percent	Pounds	Cents
Jumbos	5.2	104	23.500
Fancies	10.2	204	18.500
Extra large	20.4	408	25.500
Medium	15.3	306	23.750
No. 1's	8.6	172	20.375
No. 2's	5.2	104	16.125
Oil stock	5.2	104	7.000
Total yield	70.1	1,402	---
Hulls	28.2	564	---
Milling loss	1.7	34	---
Total	100.0	2,000	---

1/ Representative rather than actual figures.

Milling operations for Virginia type peanuts differ from those for the Runner and Spanish types in several respects, most of the difference being attributable to variety characteristics and manner of use. At most plants Virginia type peanuts are graded before shelling, for the purpose of producing a maximum of roasting peanuts, sometimes referred to as ball-park peanuts. The quantity of roasting stock produced from types of peanuts other than Virginia is nominal. Two of the grades of Virginia type shelled peanuts, Extra Large and Medium, hold a favorable place in the market.

For the Runner and Spanish types the milling operation is usually simply a matter of shelling all receipts of farmers' stock peanuts. The grades usually produced are No. 1's, No. 2's, and oil stock.

Table 12.--Farmers' stock peanuts shelled, and product outturn, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Item	1950-51		1951-52		1952-53	
	Quantity	Proportion of farmers' stock	Quantity	Proportion of farmers' stock	Quantity	Proportion of farmers' stock
	1,000 pounds	Percent	1,000 pounds	Percent	1,000 pounds	Percent
Shelled	1,653,298	100.00	1,114,858	100.00	1,170,065	100.00
Product:						
Edible shelled stock	693,550	41.95	573,413	51.43	624,291	53.36
Roasting stock	76,938	4.65	71,627	6.42	77,060	6.59
Oil stock ...	413,163	24.99	147,470	13.23	113,268	9.68
Seed	49,790	3.01	31,364	2.81	27,212	2.33
Total	1,233,441	74.60	823,874	73.89	841,831	71.96

Shelling Capacity Estimated

There probably is no entirely satisfactory way for measuring shelling capacity. In some cases manufacturers rate the capacity of the machinery they supply. That capacity, however, may be either decreased through depreciation or increased through additions or modifications. Because information from these ratings of capacity was incomplete, the measure of capacity used in this study was based on the volume processed in the busiest month of the season. The method used here is only one of many possible ones, but is believed to give a close approximation to maximum yearly capacity with the methods and practices current at the time of this report. The plants were assumed to shell peanuts at the rate of the peak month's operation for a period of 10 months, and the shelling capacity and excess capacity were estimated as follows: 1950-51 about 1,083 million tons, with excess capacity of 24 percent; 1951-52 about 751 million pounds with excess of 26 percent; and 1952-53 about 854 million pounds with excess of 31 percent.

In the Virginia-North Carolina area excess capacity was greater than the average for the Peanut Belt in each year, but was decreasing. In the Southeast, excess capacity was less than the average for the Belt during each year but it was increasing, and in the Southwest it was less than the average for 1950-51 and 1951-52 but greater than the average in 1952-53 (table 13 and fig. 4).

Table 13.--Farmers' stock peanuts shelled and estimated shelling capacity, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53 1/

Area	1950-51				1951-52				1952-53			
	Shelled	Shelling capacity			Shelled	Shelling capacity			Shelled	Shelling capacity		
		Estimated	Distribution			Estimated	Distribution			Estimated	Distribution	
			Utilized	Excess			Utilized	Excess			Utilized	Excess
	Tons	Tons	Percent	Percent	Tons	Tons	Percent	Percent	Tons	Tons	Percent	Percent
Virginia-North Carolina 2/ ...	199,134	345,740	57.60	42.40	213,394	324,180	65.83	34.17	243,959	361,680	67.45	32.55
Southeast	437,304	502,520	87.02	12.98	255,155	321,250	79.43	20.57	279,916	387,620	72.21	27.79
Southwest	190,208	235,050	80.92	19.08	88,880	106,040	83.82	16.18	61,157	104,670	58.43	41.57
Peanut Belt	826,646	1,083,310	76.31	23.69	557,429	751,470	74.18	25.82	585,032	853,970	68.51	31.49
	Months required at big month rate				Months required at big month rate				Months required at big month rate			
	Number				Number				Number			
Peanut Belt	8.22				8.10				7.67			

1/ Shelling capacity for each marketing year is estimated by multiplying quantity shelled during the peak month by the average length of shelling season.

2/ Includes South Carolina so as not to divulge individual operations.

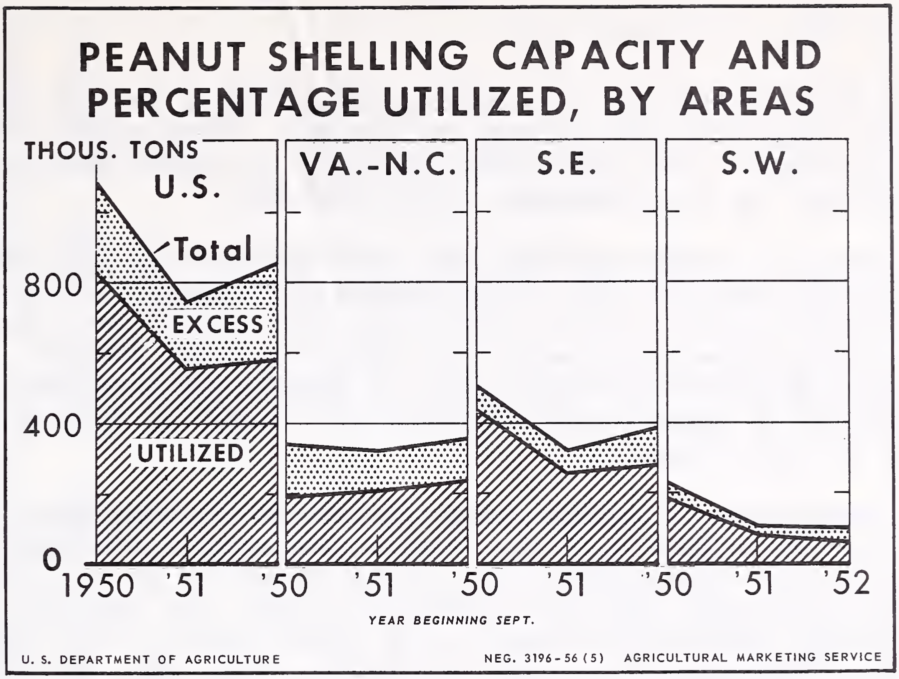

Figure 4.--Estimated shelling capacity and capacity utilization, by areas and the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53

VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA AREA

Operating Seasons

The 3 seasons studied can be considered about normal in the Virginia-North Carolina area. The 1950 and 1951 growing and harvesting seasons were good. The beginning of the 1952 growing season was unfavorable. The latter part was favorable, however, and good weather conditions continued through the digging and curing seasons. Each of the 3 years set a new record for yield in Virginia. The 1952 State average yield per acre was 2,040 pounds. Harvesting in 1952 was at its peak at about the normal time, in late October and early November, with peak movement to the shelling plants during the last 2 weeks of November and the first 2 weeks of December.

For the above named area during the 1950-51 marketing year, the average shelling plant reported some type of plant activity for 11 months. Reported activity among the different plants ranged from 3 to 12 months with the greatest number reporting some activity in each of 11 months. Corresponding figures for the 1951-52 and 1952-53 marketing years showed little variation from 1950-51. The release by CCC of a relatively small quantity of farmers' stock peanuts toward the latter part of the marketing season may have extended the operating season for a limited number of plants. Shelling plants reported receipt of farmers' stock peanuts an average of 9 months for the 1950-51 marketing year and 8 months for 1951-52 and 1952-53 and shelling was reported an average of about 8 months for the 1950-51 and 1952-53 marketing years and 7 months for 1951-52. (See table 14.)

In the Virginia-North Carolina area approximately 60 percent of the shelling plants reporting were located in Virginia. Those plants accounted for about 80 percent of the area's total quantity of peanuts shelled. North Carolina accounted for the remainder. (See table 15.)

Total number of plants reporting was about the same for the 1950-51 and 1951-52 marketing years, but for 1952-53 decreased 11 percent. The volume of peanuts shelled was about 7 percent greater for the 1951-52 year than for 1950-51, and about 23 percent greater for 1952-53 than for 1950-51. This greater volume represented increased yield of peanuts per acre and a small increase in number of acres harvested, probably a result of favorable weather for the 1951 and 1952 crops.

In the Virginia-North Carolina area the size of shelling plant, as measured by quantity milled in a year, varied from under 2,000 tons of farmers' stock peanuts to more than 15,000 tons. About 70 percent of the plants reporting each year shelled less than 10,000 tons each. The remaining 30 percent of the plants shelled 67 percent of the area's total in the 1950-51 year, 70 percent in 1951-52, and 75 percent in 1952-53. (See table 16.)

Farmers' Stock Peanuts Received at Shelling Plants

The quantity of farmers' stock peanuts received at shelling plants in the Virginia-North Carolina area, during each of the 3 marketing years studied, showed a slight increase over quantity received during the preceding year. In 1950-51 the quantity was 217 thousand tons, in 1951-52 about 219 thousand tons, and in 1952-53, a little more than 259 thousand tons. Receipts during the September-December period each year were from 70 percent to 90 percent of the season's total volume received. The month of heaviest receipts reported by most plants was November or December. The amount for the big month varied roughly around one-third of total volume. There was little variation in the rate of flow of peanuts to the shelling plants from year to year during the 3-year period studied, except as influenced by weather conditions during the harvest season. It represents what most shellers consider to be about a normal flow rate. (See table 17.)

Rate of Shelling, Rate of Movement from Plants, and End-of-Month Inventories

In the Virginia-North Carolina area the majority of shelling plants reported their highest rate of shelling during the period November through June for each marketing year studied. Estimated movement of shelled edible peanuts from the plants was greater than production in September of each year studied, Table 14.--Number of shelling plants open for business, receiving and shelling farmers' stock peanuts, by length of season, Virginia-North Carolina, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Months in season	1950-51			1951-52			1952-53		
	Open	Receiving	Shelling	Open	Receiving	Shelling	Open	Receiving	Shelling
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Less than 1	3	0	1	3	2	0	2	0	1
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
4	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	3	3
5	0	3	2	1	2	1	0	2	1
6	0	1	5	2	3	7	1	2	3
7	0	1	2	0	3	3	0	1	6
8	1	4	2	3	6	5	1	5	5
9	0	4	9	3	3	2	2	4	3
10	5	7	4	5	2	1	3	5	0
11	10	6	0	4	4	3	3	1	2
12	9	1	2	7	1	2	14	3	2
Total plants	29	29	29	28	28	28	26	26	26
Weighted average of months for all plants	10.73	8.59	7.89	9.84	8.00	7.39	10.96	8.23	7.60

Table 15.--Farmers' stock peanuts shelled and number of shelling plants, by States, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Area and State	1950-51					
	Shelled			Shelling plants		
	Quantity	Proportion of-- Area	Proportion of-- Peanut Belt	Quantity	Proportion of-- Area	Proportion of-- Peanut Belt
	Tons	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Virginia-North Carolina:						
Virginia	159,165	79.93	19.25	16	59.26	12.31
North Carolina 1/	39,969	20.07	4.84	11	40.74	8.46
Area	199,134	100.00	24.09	27	100.00	20.77
Southeast:						
Georgia	294,790	67.41	35.66	45	65.22	34.62
Alabama	86,865	19.86	10.51	18	26.09	13.85
Florida	55,649	12.73	6.73	6	8.69	4.61
Area	437,304	100.00	52.90	69	100.00	53.08
Southwest:						
Texas 2/	135,238	71.10	16.36	24	70.59	18.46
Oklahoma	54,970	28.90	6.65	10	29.41	7.69
Area	190,208	100.00	23.01	34	100.00	26.15
Peanut Belt	826,646		100.00	130		100.00
	1951-52					
Virginia-North Carolina:						
Virginia	177,791	83.32	31.89	16	59.26	12.12
North Carolina 1/	35,603	16.68	6.39	11	40.74	8.34
Area	213,394	100.00	38.28	27	100.00	20.46
Southeast:						
Georgia	157,064	61.56	28.18	45	65.22	34.09
Alabama	42,607	16.70	7.64	18	26.09	13.64
Florida	55,484	21.74	9.96	6	8.69	4.54
Area	255,155	100.00	45.78	69	100.00	52.27
Southwest:						
Texas 2/	66,847	75.21	11.99	26	72.22	19.70
Oklahoma	22,033	24.79	3.95	10	27.78	7.57
Area	88,880	100.00	15.94	36	100.00	27.27
Peanut Belt	557,429		100.00	132		100.00

See footnotes at end of table, page 25.

Continued-

Table 15.--Farmers' stock peanuts shelled and number of shelling plants, by States, 1950-51 through 1952-53 - Continued

Area and State	1952-53					
	Shelled			Shelling plants		
	Quantity	Proportion of-- Area	Proportion of-- Peanut Belt	Quantity	Proportion of-- Area	Proportion of-- Peanut Belt
	Tons	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Virginia-North Carolina:						
Virginia	205,975	84.43	35.21	16	66.67	13.22
North Carolina 1/	37,984	15.57	6.49	8	33.33	6.61
Area	243,959	100.00	41.70	24	100.00	19.84
Southeast:						
Georgia	180,210	64.38	30.80	43	64.18	35.54
Alabama	61,973	22.14	10.59	18	26.87	14.88
Florida	37,733	13.48	6.45	6	8.95	4.96
Area	279,916	100.00	47.85	67	100.00	55.37
Southwest:						
Texas 2/	50,118	81.95	8.56	23	76.67	19.01
Oklahoma	11,039	18.05	1.89	7	23.33	5.78
Area	61,157	100.00	10.45	30	100.00	24.79
Peanut Belt	585,032		100.00	121		100.00

1/ Includes South Carolina so as not to divulge individual operations.
2/ Includes New Mexico so as not to divulge individual operations.

Table 16.--Plants shelling 10,000 tons and over of farmers' stock peanuts, and proportion shelled, by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Area	1950-51		1951-52		1952-53	
	Plants as proportion of total	Shelled as proportion of total	Plants as proportion of total	Shelled as proportion of total	Plants as proportion of total	Shelled as proportion of total
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Virginia-North Carolina	24	66	25	69	31	74
Southeast	16	42	7	41	6	35
Southwest	9	20	0	0	0	0

Table 17.--Farmers' stock peanuts received and shelled, and inventory, Virginia-North Carolina, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Month	1950-51			1951-52			1952-53		
	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
September	1	2,017	1,870	55	7,145	10,777	4,275	3,674	10,132
October	1,544	2,851	525	1,099	8,129	3,744	15,506	8,109	17,403
November	123,197	34,574	89,332	82,638	26,081	59,351	88,872	36,168	69,918
December	45,959	31,445	103,419	77,623	28,612	107,155	93,363	33,436	129,193
Total	170,701	70,887		161,415	69,967		202,016	81,387	
January	14,064	29,448	87,942	21,144	32,418	93,025	21,414	32,426	116,780
February	9,301	21,837	75,194	5,424	28,164	67,700	14,597	30,789	100,208
March	7,821	20,113	62,858	7,928	26,185	48,201	6,366	29,978	75,932
April	3,769	14,922	51,501	4,867	21,835	30,218	5,066	23,513	54,833
Total	34,955	86,320		39,363	108,602		47,443	116,706	
May	4,935	12,643	41,735	9,840	16,668	19,954	2,957	15,403	41,744
June	3,137	12,263	32,505	1,291	7,462	13,752	2,201	12,019	31,747
July	1,605	8,169	24,897	4,210	4,875	12,307	2,163	8,453	24,844
August	1,321	8,327	17,882	2,866	4,460	9,679	1,763	9,991	16,609
Total	10,998	41,402		18,207	33,465		9,084	45,866	
Year	216,654	198,609		218,985	212,034		258,543	243,959	

indicating the movement of carry-over stock from the previous marketing year. 6/ October showed similar relationship in 2 of the 3 years. It is obvious that such shipments from inventory will be necessary at times to meet the more uniform demand for shelled peanuts. In all but one instance during the period November through March, the production of shelled peanuts in the area as a whole exceeded movement from the plants and during the period April through August the rate of movement from plants was again at least equal to the rate of production. End-of-month inventory of milled peanuts throughout the year exceeded monthly production and also exceeded monthly movement from the plants, with heaviest inventories at the end of June. Month of heaviest movement from the plants varied from December to March.

Shellers usually expect movement of shelled peanuts to be heaviest during the period November through April, but this does not necessarily mean that all peanuts moved actually go into use during that period. Most of those not used go into cold storage. The rate of receipt of farmers' stock peanuts, shelling rate, and rate of movements of milled peanuts from the plants were usually at a maximum about the same months, November or December, during the years studied. Thereafter, rate of receipt of farmers' stock peanuts showed a sharp decline seasonally, while shelling and movement continued at about the same rate through March or April. (See tables 18, 19, and 20, and figs. 5, 6, and 7.)

SOUTHEAST AREA

The Runner varieties of peanuts were about 70 percent of the quantity of peanuts shelled in the Southeast area during each year and Spanish varieties were about 30 percent. (See table 21.) Approximately 70 plants reported shelling operations during each of the 3 years studied. About 64 percent were in Georgia, 26 percent in Alabama, 9 percent in Florida, and 1 percent in South Carolina. For the 1950-51 marketing year plants in Georgia accounted for about 67 percent of the total volume shelled in the area, Alabama about 20 percent, and Florida about 13 percent. (See table 15.) All of the peanuts processed in the area were shelled, none being sorted out as roasting stock.

There was little variation from year to year in the average number of months the Southeast plants reported operations, and also little difference between the Southeast and the Virginia-North Carolina areas. The average plant reported some type of operation for 10 to 11 months. The average plant reported shelling operations for an average of 8 months for the 3 seasons in both areas. (See table 22.) The rate of peanut shelling during the season varied greatly for the 3 years analyzed, and no sufficient reason is apparent in the data, although the sale of storage stocks by CCC after January 1, 1951, may have had some effect. Month of greatest shelling operations was March, November, and October for the 3 years, respectively.

6/ Movement of peanuts from the plants is estimated by adding beginning inventory and production for the month and deducting ending inventory.

Table 18.--Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled edible peanuts, Virginia-North Carolina, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Season and month	Production	Available supply	End-of-month inventory	Estimated movement	As proportion of-- Production		As proportion of-- Big month	
					Inventory	Movement	Inventory	Movement
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950-51:								
September ...	1,802	14,653	3,869	10,784	214.71	598.45	9.24	56.61
October	2,379	6,248	1/ 6,578	0	276.50	0	15.71	0
November	26,806	33,384	16,439	16,945	61.33	63.21	39.26	88.95
December	26,489	42,928	23,879	19,049	90.15	71.91	57.04	100.00
January	24,860	48,739	30,391	18,348	122.25	73.81	72.59	96.32
February	19,606	49,997	34,272	15,725	174.80	80.21	81.86	82.55
March	17,948	52,220	37,957	14,263	211.48	79.47	90.66	74.88
April	13,021	50,978	37,012	13,966	284.25	107.26	88.40	73.32
May	10,833	47,845	37,651	10,194	347.56	94.10	89.93	53.51
June	10,768	48,419	41,867	6,552	388.81	60.85	100.00	34.40
July	7,105	48,972	40,501	8,471	570.04	119.23	96.74	44.47
August	7,189	47,690	36,304	11,386	504.99	158.38	86.71	59.77
1951-52:								
September ...	6,469	42,773	28,590	14,183	441.95	219.25	58.25	39.06
October	8,038	36,628	19,931	16,697	247.96	207.73	40.61	45.99
November	25,356	45,287	23,277	22,010	91.80	86.80	47.43	60.62
December	29,029	52,306	33,505	18,801	115.42	64.77	68.27	51.78
January	33,196	66,701	30,393	36,308	91.56	109.37	61.93	100.00
February	28,327	58,720	46,028	12,823	162.49	45.27	93.78	35.32
March	26,823	72,851	49,079	23,772	182.97	88.63	100.00	65.47
April	22,762	71,841	46,723	25,118	205.27	110.35	95.20	69.18
May	16,924	63,647	43,164	20,483	255.05	121.03	87.95	56.41
June	8,567	51,731	39,992	11,739	466.81	137.03	81.48	32.33
July	4,977	44,969	32,753	12,216	658.09	245.45	66.74	33.65
August	3,963	36,716	22,382	14,334	564.77	361.70	45.60	39.48
1952-53:								
September ...	3,748	26,130	11,051	15,079	294.85	402.32	22.71	37.49
October	7,555	18,606	6,379	12,227	84.43	161.84	13.11	30.40
November	34,400	40,779	19,393	21,386	56.38	62.17	39.85	53.17
December	34,649	54,042	27,028	27,014	78.01	77.96	55.55	67.16
January	34,205	61,233	35,129	26,104	102.70	76.32	72.19	64.90
February	31,639	66,768	44,440	22,328	140.46	70.57	91.33	55.51
March	44,440	88,880	48,659	40,221	109.49	90.51	100.00	100.00
April	20,299	68,958	42,714	26,244	210.42	129.29	87.78	65.25
May	16,250	58,964	39,071	19,893	240.44	122.42	80.30	49.46
June	12,661	51,732	38,274	13,458	302.30	106.29	78.66	33.46
July	8,042	46,316	34,798	11,518	432.70	143.22	71.51	28.64
August	8,248	43,046	26,902	16,144	326.16	195.73	55.29	40.14

1/ The 330,000 pounds excess of end-of-month inventory over "available supply" may represent in-movement from types of peanut handlers, processors, or warehousemen not included in this tabulation.

Table 19.--Production, supply, movement, and inventory of roasting stock peanuts, Virginia-North Carolina, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Season and month	Production	Available supply	End-of-month inventory	Estimated movement	As proportion of-- Production: Inventory	As proportion of-- Production: Movement	As proportion of-- Big month: Inventory	As proportion of-- Big month: Movement
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950-51:								
September ...	412	4,463	2,422	2,041	587.86	495.39	13.27	14.18
October	881	3,303	1,165	2,138	132.24	242.68	6.38	14.85
November	17,632	18,797	4,402	14,395	24.97	81.64	24.12	100.00
December	13,203	17,605	8,843	8,762	66.98	66.36	48.45	60.87
January	11,895	20,738	15,118	5,620	127.10	47.25	82.84	39.04
February	7,705	22,823	17,210	5,613	223.36	72.85	94.30	38.99
March	6,400	23,610	18,250	5,360	285.16	83.75	100.00	37.24
April	4,321	22,571	16,912	5,659	391.39	130.97	92.67	39.31
May	4,065	20,977	15,946	5,031	392.28	123.76	87.38	34.95
June	3,776	19,722	14,662	5,060	388.29	134.00	80.34	35.15
July	2,672	17,334	13,903	3,431	520.32	128.41	76.18	23.83
August	2,351	16,254	12,650	3,604	538.07	153.30	69.32	25.04
1951-52:								
September ...	1,601	14,251	9,333	4,918	582.95	307.18	52.52	43.03
October	1,768	11,101	4,014	7,087	227.04	400.85	22.59	62.01
November	10,304	14,318	2,890	11,428	28.05	110.91	16.26	100.00
December	9,967	12,857	5,738	7,119	57.57	71.43	32.29	62.29
January	9,659	15,397	10,118	5,279	104.75	54.65	56.93	46.19
February	9,291	19,409	13,807	5,602	148.61	60.29	77.69	49.02
March	9,499	23,306	17,772	5,534	187.09	58.26	100.00	48.42
April	6,982	24,754	17,756	6,998	254.31	100.23	99.91	61.24
May	4,176	21,932	13,894	8,038	332.71	192.48	78.18	70.34
June	1,771	15,665	10,774	4,891	608.36	276.17	60.62	42.80
July	1,726	12,500	8,147	4,353	472.02	252.20	45.84	38.09
August	2,079	10,226	6,457	3,769	310.58	181.29	36.33	32.98
1952-53:								
September ...	1,188	7,645	2,788	4,857	234.68	408.84	16.52	34.10
October	3,098	5,886	1,296	4,590	41.83	148.16	7.68	32.22
November	15,665	16,961	2,716	14,245	17.34	90.94	16.09	100.00
December	11,054	13,770	5,630	8,140	50.93	73.64	33.36	57.14
January	9,510	15,140	9,925	5,215	104.36	54.84	58.81	36.61
February	9,009	18,934	13,751	5,183	152.64	57.53	81.48	36.38
March	9,170	22,921	16,877	6,044	184.05	65.91	100.00	42.43
April	5,598	22,475	14,672	7,803	262.09	139.39	86.93	54.78
May	3,828	18,500	11,111	7,389	290.26	193.03	65.84	51.87
June	3,056	14,167	7,208	6,959	235.86	227.72	42.71	48.85
July	1,392	8,600	4,871	3,729	349.93	267.89	28.86	26.18
August	1,993	6,864	4,215	2,649	211.49	132.92	24.97	18.60

Table 20.--Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled oil stock peanuts, Virginia-North Carolina, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Season and month	Production	Available supply	End-of-month inventory	Estimated movement	As proportion of-- Production: Inventory	As proportion of-- Production: Movement	As proportion of-- Big month: Inventory	As proportion of-- Big month: Movement
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950-51:								
September ...	650	7,336	3,787	3,549	582.62	546.00	34.55	69.72
October	753	4,540	1,559	2,981	207.04	395.88	14.22	58.57
November	6,943	8,502	3,721	4,781	53.59	68.86	33.95	93.93
December	7,181	10,902	6,820	4,082	94.97	56.84	62.23	80.20
January	6,148	12,968	9,088	3,880	147.82	63.11	82.92	76.23
February	4,338	13,426	8,336	5,090	192.16	117.34	76.06	100.00
March	4,985	13,321	9,339	3,982	187.34	79.88	85.21	78.23
April	3,807	13,146	10,671	2,475	280.30	65.01	97.36	48.62
May	3,380	14,051	10,736	3,315	317.63	98.08	97.96	65.13
June	3,581	14,317	10,960	3,357	306.06	93.74	100.00	65.95
July	2,248	13,208	8,386	4,822	373.04	214.50	76.51	94.73
August	2,300	10,686	5,990	4,696	260.43	204.17	54.65	92.26
1951-52:								
September ...	2,066	8,056	4,413	3,643	213.60	176.33	100.00	94.43
October	2,124	6,537	2,679	3,858	126.13	181.64	60.71	100.00
November	2,671	5,350	2,280	3,070	85.36	114.94	51.67	79.57
December	2,742	5,022	1,455	3,567	53.06	130.09	32.97	92.46
January	3,542	4,997	2,375	2,622	67.05	74.03	53.82	67.96
February	3,283	5,658	2,574	3,084	78.40	93.94	58.33	79.94
March	2,618	5,192	1,999	3,193	76.36	121.96	45.30	82.76
April	2,264	4,263	1,609	2,654	71.07	117.23	36.46	68.79
May	3,542	5,151	3,296	1,855	93.05	52.37	74.69	48.08
June	929	4,225	1,507	2,718	162.22	292.57	34.15	70.45
July	592	2,099	319	1,780	53.89	300.68	7.23	46.14
August	735	1,054	303	751	41.22	102.18	6.87	19.47
1952-53:								
September ...	349	652	375	277	107.45	79.37	8.85	5.35
October	872	1,247	966	281	110.78	32.22	22.80	5.43
November	3,229	4,195	1,188	3,007	36.79	93.12	28.04	58.06
December	3,065	4,253	1,192	3,061	38.89	99.87	28.13	59.10
January	3,355	4,547	1,450	3,097	43.22	92.31	34.22	59.80
February	3,472	4,922	1,339	3,583	38.57	103.20	31.60	69.18
March	3,246	4,585	1,468	3,117	45.22	96.03	34.65	60.19
April	7,948	9,416	4,237	5,179	53.31	65.16	100.00	100.00
May	2,159	6,396	2,868	3,528	132.84	163.41	67.69	68.12
June	1,519	4,387	1,097	3,290	72.22	216.59	25.89	63.53
July	3,234	4,331	817	3,514	25.26	108.66	19.28	67.85
August	3,720	4,537	2,116	2,421	56.88	65.08	49.94	46.75

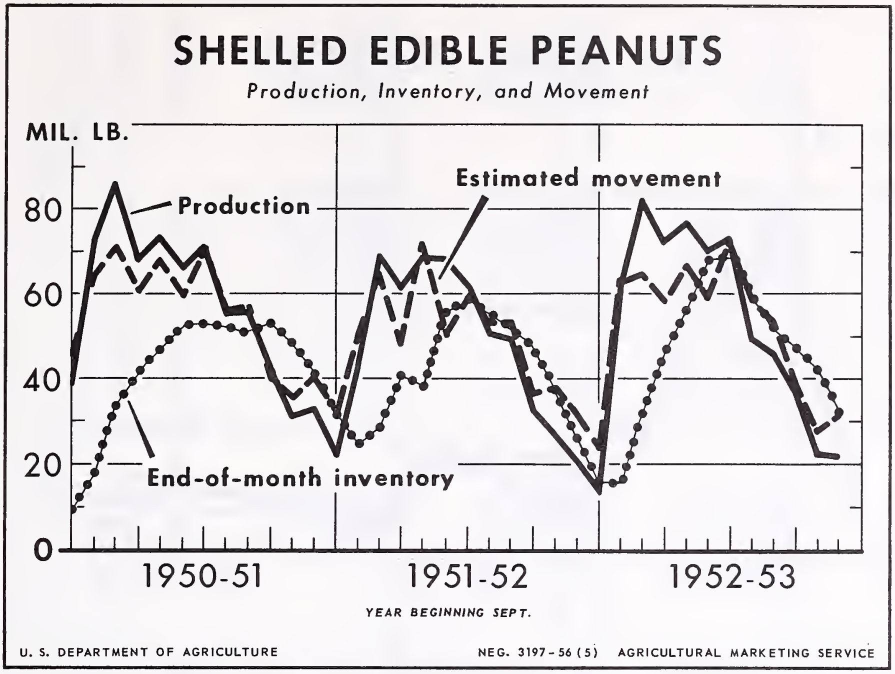

Figure 5.--Production, inventory, and movement of shelled edible peanuts, for the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53

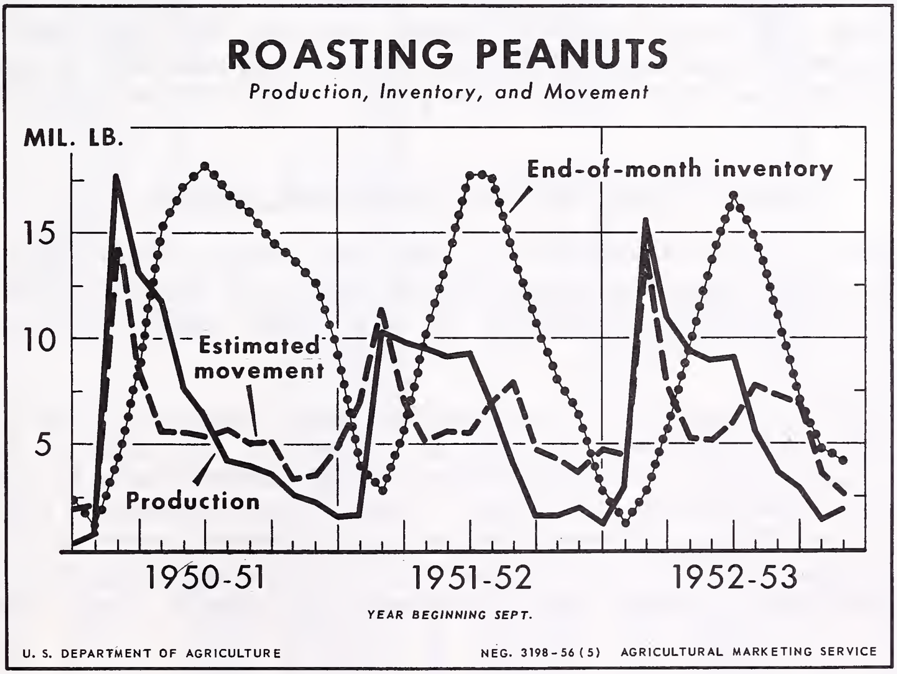

Figure 6.--Production, inventory, and movement of roasting peanuts, for the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53

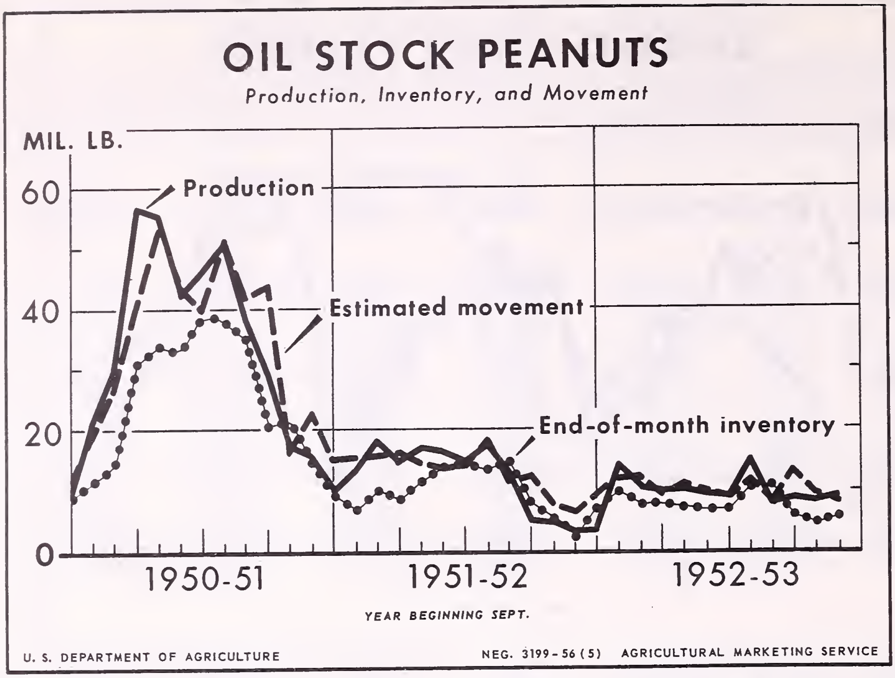

Figure 7.--Production, inventory, and movement of oil stock peanuts, for the Peanut Belt, 1950-51 through 1952-53

In peanut receipts the 2 areas varied definitely in length of season. There were 2 poor crop years in the Southeast area and for that reason the peanuts were harvested and marketed earlier than usual relative to the Virginia-North Carolina area during those years. (See tables 14 and 22.)

Farmers' Stock Peanuts Received and Shelled

Total volume of peanuts received at shelling plants in the Southeast in 1951-52 was 41 percent less than the previous year, and was nearly as low in 1952-53. The decline was due primarily to unfavorable weather with a decrease in acres harvested and in yields. (See table 23.)

During 1950-51, 94 percent of the peanuts were received at the plants in the 4 months September-December and only 34 percent of the season's total were shelled during that period. For the January-April period about 42 percent of total volume were shelled and only about 5 percent were received; for the May-August period about 24 percent were shelled and 1 percent received. Corresponding percentages for the 1951-52 and 1952-53 years were similar to the 1950-51 marketing year, despite the big decrease in size of crop. (See table 23.)

March was the month when heaviest shelling operations were reported for the 1950-51 year, November for 1951-52, and October for 1952-53.

Table 21.--Farmers' stock peanuts shelled, by varieties and by areas, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Area and season	Variety							
	Virginia		Runner		Spanish		Total	
	Quantity	Proportion of area	Quantity	Proportion of area	Quantity	Proportion of area	Quantity	Proportion of area
	Tons	Percent	Tons	Percent	Tons	Percent	Tons	Percent
Virginia-North Carolina:								
1950-51	198,212	99.8	0	0	397	0.2	198,609	100.00
1951-52	211,801	99.8	0	0	233	.2	212,034	100.00
1952-53	243,788	99.9	0	0	171	.1	243,959	100.00
Total	653,801	99.5	0	0	801	.5	654,602	100.00
Southeast:								
1950-51	0	0	320,841	73.3	116,988	26.7	437,829	100.00
1951-52	0	0	177,868	69.3	78,647	30.7	256,515	100.00
1952-53	0	0	198,376	70.9	81,540	29.1	279,916	100.00
Total	0	0	697,085	71.5	277,175	28.5	974,260	100.00
Southwest:								
1950-51	916	0.5	0	0	175,014	99.5	175,930	100.00
1951-52	1,033	1.2	0	0	86,989	98.8	88,022	100.00
1952-53	149	.2	2,545	4.2	58,729	95.6	61,423	100.00
Total	2,098	.7	2,545	.8	320,732	98.5	325,375	100.00
Peanut Belt:								
1950-51	199,128	24.5	320,841	39.5	292,399	36.0	812,368	100.00
1951-52	212,834	38.2	177,868	32.0	165,869	29.8	556,571	100.00
1952-53	243,937	41.7	200,921	34.3	140,440	24.0	585,298	100.00
Total	655,899	33.5	699,630	35.8	598,708	30.7	1,954,237	100.00

Table 22.--Number of shelling plants open for business, receiving and shelling farmers' stock peanuts, by length of season, Southeast, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Months in season	1950-51			1951-52			1952-53		
	Open	Receiving	Shelling	Open	Receiving	Shelling	Open	Receiving	Shelling
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Less than 1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2
1	0	3	0	1	1	4	0	1	2
2	0	3	1	1	6	3	0	7	3
3	1	9	3	0	5	5	2	10	3
4	0	6	0	1	6	7	0	10	1
5	1	10	4	0	10	6	1	8	5
6	1	12	5	0	5	4	5	9	9
7	2	10	8	4	8	5	5	6	4
8	4	4	3	9	9	7	3	4	5
9	9	8	12	9	9	5	8	4	11
10	14	2	15	11	5	5	9	4	10
11	11	2	6	9	3	9	22	3	8
12	26	0	11	25	3	8	11	0	3
Total plants	69	69	69	70	70	70	66	66	66
Weighted average of months for all plants	10.35	5.77	8.78	9.96	6.6	7.18	9.64	5.48	7.67

Table 23.--Farmers' stock peanuts received and shelled, and inventory, Southeast, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Month	1950-51			1951-52			1952-53		
	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
September	80,774	23,184	57,966	22,492	10,894	18,930	14,171	19,877	10,805
October	270,725	45,014	276,754	163,684	23,805	149,418	196,919	38,762	172,180
November	131,878	35,058	358,860	110,072	32,125	216,642	67,755	30,166	205,730
December	25,854	46,184	317,170	28,775	22,307	208,374	11,345	25,153	185,394
Total	509,231	149,440		325,023	89,131		290,190	113,958	
January	5,961	50,252	267,654	32,797	24,938	194,437	3,439	29,566	154,819
February	9,471	40,078	229,340	20,330	28,774	169,465	2,378	26,810	128,064
March	8,551	46,514	177,377	17,586	24,355	137,717	2,386	20,564	102,334
April	6,686	46,386	117,367	25,023	22,647	100,929	2,628	22,895	67,256
Total	30,669	183,230		95,736	100,714		10,831	99,835	
May	4,094	41,539	71,802	14,792	24,343	68,994	2,924	22,909	44,470
June	1,029	27,930	42,585	7,992	16,432	50,424	3,527	19,727	27,166
July	1,123	18,676	24,403	14,113	16,564	35,748	2,691	11,961	17,434
August	1,257	17,014	8,413	7,064	9,331	26,906	7,538	11,526	10,284
Total	7,503	105,159		43,961	66,670		16,680	66,123	
Year	547,403	437,829		464,720	256,515		317,701	279,916	

In quantity of peanuts shelled, plants varied each year from under 1,000 tons to more than 15,000 tons. Plants in the area shelling more than 10,000 tons of peanuts each year accounted for about 42 percent of the total volume in the area during 1950-51, 41 percent during 1951-52, and 35 percent during 1952-53. (See table 16.)

End-of-Month Inventory of Farmers' Stock Peanuts Held by Peanut Shellers

Farmers' stock peanut inventories held by shellers were heaviest in November for each year, representing roughly 80 percent of the total volume shelled during the seasons. (See table 23.) This indicates the rapid flow of peanuts to the plants during the harvest season and the consequent storage capacities which shellers need.

Products Milled From Farmers' Stock Peanuts

Yield of shelled peanuts was about normal (75 percent of the volume of farmers' stock that was shelled) in the 1950-51 and 1951-52 marketing years, but fell to 69 percent in 1952-53 as a result of drought. (See table 9.)

Estimated rates of shelling and of movement of peanuts from the shelling plants were very close together during all months for each marketing year. As a result of this close correspondence between monthly shelling and movement, working inventories of shelled peanuts remained relatively constant. (See tables 24 and 25.)

SOUTHWEST AREA

About 98 percent of the total volume of peanuts shelled in the Southwest area each marketing year studied were the Spanish variety. About 36 shelling plants reported in that area, two-thirds of them in Texas and one-third in Oklahoma; one plant reported from New Mexico. Quantity of peanuts shelled was distributed among the 3 States in about the same proportion as number of plants. (See table 15.)

The Southwest plants shelled practically all peanuts processed; a few Valencias were cleaned for roasting stock. The yield of shelled peanuts varied from 70 to 75 percent of the weight of the farmers' stock shelled each year. (See table 9 and fig. 4.) Quantity of peanuts shelled per year varied among plants from under 1,000 to more than 10,000 tons. About 9 percent of the plants each shelled more than 10,000 tons during 1950-51 and that group of plants accounted for about 20 percent of all peanuts shelled in the area that year. (See table 16.) During the next 2 seasons no plant in the area milled as many as 10,000 tons of peanuts.

Table 24.--Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled edible peanuts, Southeast, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Season and month	Production	Available supply	End-of-month inventory	Estimated movement	As proportion of--			
					Production		Big month	
					Inventory	Movement	Inventory	Movement
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950-51:								
September	26,807	29,657	4,277	25,380	15.95	94.68	39.14	53.32
October	51,484	55,761	8,166	47,595	15.86	92.45	74.73	100.00
November	33,742	41,908	9,966	31,942	29.54	94.67	91.21	67.11
December	22,004	31,970	9,562	22,408	43.46	101.84	87.51	47.08
January	27,300	36,862	8,903	27,959	32.61	102.41	81.48	58.74
February	27,740	36,643	10,927	25,716	39.39	92.70	100.00	54.03
March	34,265	45,192	8,460	36,732	24.69	107.20	77.42	77.18
April	28,892	37,352	8,052	29,300	27.87	101.41	73.69	61.56
May	31,768	39,820	6,834	32,986	21.51	103.83	62.54	69.31
June	22,575	29,409	7,055	22,354	31.25	99.02	64.56	46.97
July	17,667	24,722	5,741	18,981	32.50	107.44	52.54	39.88
August	17,614	23,355	2,991	20,364	16.98	115.61	27.37	42.79
1951-52:								
September	8,627	11,618	2,082	9,536	24.13	110.54	35.78	29.56
October	24,894	26,976	3,131	23,845	12.58	95.79	53.81	73.90
November	32,352	35,483	3,218	32,265	9.95	99.73	55.30	100.00
December	21,632	24,850	4,532	20,318	20.95	93.93	77.88	62.97
January	24,793	29,325	4,304	25,021	17.36	100.92	73.96	77.55
February	29,494	33,798	5,819	27,979	19.73	94.86	100.00	86.72
March	24,246	30,065	4,251	25,814	17.53	106.47	73.05	80.01
April	18,590	22,841	3,554	19,287	19.12	103.75	61.08	59.78
May	25,379	28,933	3,783	25,150	14.91	99.10	65.01	77.95
June	19,719	23,502	4,598	18,904	23.32	95.87	79.02	58.59
July	19,894	24,492	2,051	22,441	10.31	112.80	35.25	69.55
August	11,637	13,688	1,701	11,987	14.62	103.01	29.23	37.15
1952-53:								
September	1,601	3,302	2,214	1,088	138.29	67.96	14.54	2.88
October	42,411	44,625	6,819	37,806	16.08	89.14	44.78	100.00
November	36,875	43,694	9,569	34,125	25.95	92.54	62.83	90.26
December	30,038	39,607	14,253	25,354	47.45	84.41	93.59	67.06
January	36,618	50,871	15,229	35,642	41.59	97.33	100.00	94.28
February	31,911	47,140	14,997	32,143	47.00	100.73	98.48	85.02
March	23,374	38,371	11,179	27,192	47.83	116.33	73.41	71.93
April	25,203	36,382	8,990	27,392	35.67	108.69	59.03	72.45
May	25,980	34,970	6,556	28,414	25.23	109.37	43.05	75.16
June	21,897	28,453	5,267	23,186	24.05	105.89	34.59	61.33
July	12,136	17,403	3,988	13,415	32.86	110.54	26.19	35.48
August	11,514	15,502	4,172	11,330	36.23	98.40	27.40	29.97

Table 25.--Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled oil stock peanuts, Southeast, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Season and month	Production	Available supply	End-of-month inventory	Estimated movement	As proportion of--			
					Production		Big month	
					Inventory	Movement	Inventory	Movement
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950-51:								
September ...	6,481	10,472	4,245	6,227	65.50	96.08	20.84	14.71
October	15,770	20,015	7,034	12,981	44.60	82.31	34.53	30.66
November	15,157	22,191	6,824	15,367	45.02	101.39	33.50	36.30
December	41,792	48,616	16,719	31,897	40.01	76.32	82.08	75.35
January	42,429	59,148	16,816	42,332	39.63	99.77	82.55	100.00
February	29,812	46,628	14,594	32,034	48.95	107.45	71.64	75.67
March	31,906	46,500	20,370	26,130	63.84	81.90	100.00	61.73
April	36,731	57,101	18,310	38,791	49.85	105.61	89.89	91.64
May	27,400	45,710	18,911	26,799	69.02	97.81	92.84	63.31
June	18,876	37,787	3,691	34,096	19.55	180.63	18.12	80.54
July	8,981	12,672	9,205	3,467	102.49	38.60	45.19	8.19
August	7,234	16,439	4,451	11,988	61.53	165.72	21.85	28.32
1951-52:								
September ...	4,448	8,899	2,483	6,416	55.82	144.24	25.11	45.43
October	9,189	11,672	2,947	8,725	32.07	94.95	29.80	61.78
November	13,640	16,587	5,123	11,464	37.56	84.05	51.80	81.17
December	9,996	15,119	4,496	10,623	44.98	106.27	45.46	75.22
January	11,111	15,607	6,757	8,850	60.81	79.65	68.32	62.66
February	11,223	17,980	9,034	8,946	80.50	79.71	91.34	63.34
March	9,952	18,986	9,890	9,096	99.38	91.40	100.00	64.41
April	13,691	23,581	9,458	14,123	69.08	103.16	95.63	100.00
May	8,193	17,651	9,251	8,400	112.91	102.53	93.54	59.48
June	3,465	12,716	4,076	8,640	117.63	250.00	41.21	61.18
July	3,836	7,912	3,925	3,987	102.32	103.94	39.69	28.23
August	1,597	5,522	1,266	4,256	79.27	266.50	12.80	30.14
1952-53:								
September ...	1,236	2,502	4,827	0	390.53	0	70.76	0
October	11,598	16,425	6,548	9,877	56.46	85.16	95.98	100.00
November	5,251	11,799	4,783	7,016	91.09	133.61	70.11	71.03
December	5,406	10,189	5,148	5,041	95.23	93.25	75.46	51.04
January	5,298	10,446	4,077	6,369	76.95	120.22	59.76	64.48
February	5,085	9,162	4,172	4,990	82.05	98.13	61.16	50.52
March	4,755	8,927	3,872	5,055	81.43	106.31	56.76	51.18
April	6,392	10,264	4,777	5,487	74.73	85.84	70.02	55.55
May	5,126	9,903	6,822	3,081	133.09	60.11	100.00	31.19
June	6,576	13,398	4,242	9,156	64.51	139.23	62.18	92.70
July	4,700	8,942	3,310	5,632	70.43	119.83	48.52	57.02
August	4,920	8,230	2,880	5,350	58.54	108.74	42.22	54.17

Some peanuts were shelled each month, although the average plant reported shelling 9 months in 1950-51 and only 7 months in each 1951-52 and 1952-53. The average shelling season was approximately the same as in the rest of the Belt.

In the Southwest area the average plant reported receiving peanuts 5 months in 1950-51, and 6 months in the 2 following seasons. This was a slightly shorter season than that reported for the Southeast, and at least 2 months shorter than reported for the Virginia-North Carolina area. (See table 26.) Heaviest receipts were reported as of about the same date as in the Southeast, October and November, with heaviest shelling operations at approximately the same time.

Farmers' Stock Peanuts Received and Shelled

The quantity of peanuts received at the plants in the Southwest was about half as great in 1951-52 as in 1950-51 and less than a third as great in 1952-53 as in 1950-51. This would suggest effects of the drought on peanut production in the Southwest during 1951 and even more severe effects in 1952. The seasonal rate of both peanut receipts and peanut shelling showed about the same pattern each year and about the same as in the Southeast. (See table 27.)

The quantity of peanuts shelled necessarily showed a decrease in line with decreasing receipts during the 3-year period studied. The amounts shelled were about 95,000 tons in 1950-51, 45,000 tons in 1951-52, and 30,000 tons in 1952-53. Stocks of peanuts held by plants for shelling also varied widely between the 3 marketing years, again in line with smaller crops and smaller receipts. Rate of shelling and movement of peanuts from the shelling plants followed a similar pattern to the Southeast area. (See tables 28 and 29.)

In the 1951-52 and 1952-53 marketing years shelling seems to have continued at a rate not far from normal, but with a correspondingly shorter shelling season than in 1950-51. (See table 27.) Here, as throughout the industry, differences in methods of harvesting and marketing the farmer's crop and differences in practices at the shelling plants necessarily have an important effect on efficiency and cost of marketing. Their modification requires first, however, an analytical description of the major variations commonly found in the industry.

Not only are there existing differences in the growing and harvesting seasons between the areas, but important also are variety differences and the differences in the uses to which the varieties are adapted. Different methods of harvesting, movement of farmers' stock peanuts, and different practices at the shelling plants are practiced in the 3 areas.

Even within each area there are significant variations in practices, but their extent is not sufficient to have great influence on area totals or averages. For example, some shelling plants serve principally as receiving centers for larger plants, others shell peanuts for seed purposes only.

Table 26.--Number of shelling plants open for business, receiving and shelling farmers' stock peanuts, by length of season, Southwest, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Months in season	1950-51			1951-52			1952-53		
	Open	Receiving	Shelling	Open	Receiving	Shelling	Open	Receiving	Shelling
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Less than 1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
1	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
2	0	1	0	1	2	3	0	1	0
3	1	5	4	0	2	2	1	2	2
4	0	3	0	2	7	3	0	6	1
5	2	8	1	1	3	1	2	4	5
6	2	5	2	1	7	2	1	11	5
7	0	2	3	2	5	4	3	2	1
8	2	5	3	4	5	4	3	2	4
9	3	2	1	4	4	4	2	1	3
10	2	1	9	4	0	4	0	0	1
11	6	0	5	2	0	3	3	1	4
12	16	0	6	14	0	3	15	0	2
Total plants	34	34	34	36	36	36	30	30	30
Weighted average of months for all plants	10.18	5.38	8.82	9.28	5.86	6.92	9.83	5.60	6.50

Table 27.--Farmers' stock peanuts received, shelled, and inventory, Southwest, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Month	1950-51			1951-52			1952-53		
	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory	Received	Shelled	End-of-month inventory
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Sept	12,343	9,339	4,479	5,604	7,204	4,224	8,935	7,327	7,835
Oct	93,874	17,545	80,230	19,964	9,361	14,303	27,968	10,467	25,091
Nov	76,348	23,505	132,242	32,294	10,604	35,236	14,666	9,915	28,408
Dec	10,595	19,642	122,913	29,990	9,369	54,521	5,888	6,764	27,163
Total ..	193,160	70,031		87,852	36,538		57,457	34,473	
Jan	3,425	20,826	105,265	3,959	9,926	46,007	1,346	5,510	22,419
Feb	3,507	18,295	89,560	2,780	8,669	39,339	722	5,349	16,833
Mar	2,869	20,241	68,626	3,488	9,142	32,223	581	4,669	11,579
Apr	1,423	16,500	50,780	741	7,783	21,844	2,983	3,193	7,673
Total ..	11,224	75,862		10,968	35,520		5,632	18,721	
May	1,785	15,093	33,188	150	6,015	13,547	541	2,875	4,651
June	1,547	10,982	20,732	666	4,257	9,258	215	1,481	3,245
July	742	8,339	12,788	238	2,278	7,101	228	1,714	1,116
Aug	4,754	9,901	6,662	3,770	4,272	6,326	1,461	1,893	591
Total ..	8,828	44,315		4,824	16,822		2,445	7,963	
Year ...	213,212	190,208		103,644	88,880		65,534	61,157	

Table 28.--Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled edible peanuts, Southwest, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Season and month	Production	Available supply	End-of-month inventory	Estimated movement	As proportion of--			
					Production		Big month	
					Inventory	Movement	Inventory	Movement
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950-51:								
September	10,028	10,989	1,355	9,634	13.51	96.07	17.36	43.84
October	18,899	20,254	3,325	16,929	17.59	89.58	42.60	77.04
November	25,603	28,928	6,953	21,975	27.16	85.83	89.07	100.00
December	19,977	26,930	7,806	19,124	39.07	95.73	100.00	87.03
January	21,298	29,104	7,423	21,681	34.85	101.80	95.09	98.66
February	18,659	26,082	7,720	18,362	41.37	98.41	98.90	83.56
March	18,809	26,529	6,820	19,709	36.26	104.78	87.37	89.69
April	13,473	20,293	7,366	12,927	54.67	95.95	94.36	58.83
May	13,038	20,404	6,485	13,919	49.74	106.76	83.08	63.34
June	9,019	15,504	4,325	11,179	47.95	123.95	55.41	50.87
July	6,148	10,473	2,344	8,129	38.13	132.22	30.03	36.99
August	7,935	10,279	1,827	8,452	23.02	106.52	23.41	38.46
1951-52:								
September	6,897	8,724	809	7,915	11.73	114.76	15.26	73.35
October	9,940	10,749	1,830	8,919	18.41	89.73	34.52	82.65
November	11,340	13,170	2,379	10,791	20.98	95.16	44.88	100.00
December	10,440	12,819	3,646	9,173	34.92	87.86	68.78	85.01
January	10,536	14,182	3,607	10,575	34.24	100.37	68.04	98.00
February	10,280	13,887	3,956	9,931	38.48	96.61	74.63	92.03
March	10,477	14,433	5,239	9,194	50.00	87.75	98.83	85.20
April	9,104	14,343	5,301	9,042	58.23	99.32	100.00	83.79
May	7,065	12,366	4,578	7,788	64.80	110.23	86.36	72.17
June	4,562	9,140	3,192	5,948	69.97	130.38	60.22	55.12
July	2,193	5,385	2,524	2,861	115.09	130.46	47.61	26.51
August	4,891	7,415	2,050	5,365	41.91	109.69	38.67	49.72
1952-53:								
September	8,604	10,654	2,713	7,941	31.53	92.29	29.65	65.06
October	12,072	14,785	2,579	12,206	21.36	101.11	28.19	100.00
November	10,594	13,173	3,787	9,386	35.75	88.60	41.39	76.90
December	7,687	11,474	5,709	5,765	74.27	75.00	62.39	47.23
January	6,175	11,884	6,811	5,073	110.30	82.15	74.44	41.56
February	6,706	13,517	8,739	4,778	130.32	71.25	95.51	39.14
March	5,662	14,401	9,150	5,251	161.60	92.74	100.00	43.02
April	3,712	12,862	7,570	5,292	203.93	142.56	82.73	43.36
May	3,436	11,006	5,433	5,573	158.12	162.19	59.38	45.66
June	1,780	7,213	4,000	3,213	224.72	180.51	43.72	26.32
July	2,021	6,021	3,261	2,760	161.36	136.57	35.64	22.61
August	2,148	5,409	1,512	3,897	70.39	181.42	16.52	31.93

Table 29.--Production, supply, movement, and inventory of shelled oil stock peanuts, Southwest, by months, 1950-51 through 1952-53

Season and month	Production	Available supply	End-of-month inventory	Estimated movement	As proportion of--			
					Production		Big month	
					Inventory	Movement	Inventory	Movement
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1950-51:								
September ...	2,060	2,747	1,028	1,719	49.90	83.45	10.46	14.58
October	4,853	5,881	2,740	3,141	56.46	64.72	27.88	26.64
November	7,827	10,567	3,758	6,809	48.01	86.99	38.24	57.76
December	7,913	11,671	7,359	4,312	93.00	54.49	74.88	36.58
January	7,304	14,663	7,923	6,740	108.47	92.28	80.62	57.17
February	8,047	15,970	9,827	6,143	122.12	76.34	100.00	52.11
March	9,224	19,051	9,069	9,982	98.32	108.22	92.29	84.67
April	10,162	19,231	9,265	9,966	91.17	98.07	94.28	84.54
May	7,915	17,180	5,391	11,789	68.11	148.95	54.86	100.00
June	6,849	12,240	5,883	6,357	85.90	92.82	59.87	53.92
July	5,911	11,794	3,637	8,157	61.53	138.00	37.01	69.19
August	6,215	9,852	4,090	5,762	65.81	92.71	41.62	48.88
1951-52:								
September ...	3,176	7,266	2,239	5,027	70.50	158.28	91.72	100.00
October	1,840	4,079	1,359	2,720	73.86	147.83	55.67	54.11
November	2,069	3,428	2,361	1,067	114.11	51.57	96.72	21.23
December	2,069	4,430	2,353	2,077	113.73	100.39	96.39	41.32
January	2,429	4,782	1,902	2,880	78.30	118.57	77.92	57.29
February	1,802	3,704	2,119	1,585	117.59	87.96	86.81	31.53
March	2,107	4,226	2,338	1,888	110.96	89.61	95.78	37.56
April	1,540	3,878	2,176	1,702	141.30	110.52	89.14	33.86
May	1,142	3,318	2,441	877	213.75	76.80	100.00	17.45
June	710	3,151	2,341	810	329.72	114.08	95.90	16.11
July	399	2,740	1,094	1,646	274.19	412.53	44.82	32.74
August	738	1,832	587	1,245	79.54	168.70	24.05	24.77
1952-53:								
September ...	1,642	2,229	1,586	643	96.59	39.16	87.82	31.37
October	1,513	3,099	1,806	1,293	119.37	85.46	100.00	63.07
November	1,670	3,476	1,426	2,050	85.39	122.75	78.96	100.00
December	1,048	2,474	1,383	1,091	131.97	104.10	76.58	53.22
January	1,266	2,649	1,473	1,176	116.35	92.89	81.56	57.37
February	688	2,161	1,141	1,020	165.84	148.26	63.18	49.76
March	955	2,096	1,567	529	164.08	55.39	86.77	25.80
April	606	2,173	1,351	822	222.94	135.64	74.81	40.10
May	529	1,880	669	1,211	126.47	228.92	37.04	59.07
June	383	1,052	497	555	129.77	144.91	27.52	27.07
July	119	616	525	91	441.18	76.47	29.07	4.44
August	338	863	669	194	197.93	57.40	37.04	9.46

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